labour is prohibited in occupations/or cases mentioned in the Schedule under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986. Additions are made to the Schedule from time to time of other occupations/processes which are identified as hazardous by the Technical Advisory Committee on Child Labour. In other occupations, child labour is regulated.

The National Policy on Child Labour formulated in 1987, envisages focussing of general development programmes for the benefit of child labour and taking up action oriented projects for elimination, welfare and rehabilitation of child labour. Under its ambit, nine project-based plans of action in five States covering 7300 children through 126 Special Schools have been taken up in areas of concentration of child labour. These projects are being expanded and new projects are being taken up to cover more children. Two project areas have been identified, namely, Jaggampet in Andhra Pradesh and Mandsaur in Madhya Pradesh for total elimination of child labour in a time-bound manner.

Financial assistance to voluntary organisations is provided for taking up action-oriented projects. Seven projects covering 2310 children are being implemented at present. In addition, and ILO assisted project for the benefit of working children namely, IPEC (International Programme on Elimination of Child Labour) is under implementation in 14 States through 60 Projects covering a total of 33,935 children directly.

Ten States/UTs namely, Sikkim, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Goa, Pondicherry, Chandigarh have been identified initially for total elimination of child labour through concerted efforts in a time-bound manner. Subsequently, similar efforts would be extended to other States in course of time based on experience gained. Constant dialogues with State Governments, organisations of employers and trade unions, sustained workers education and removal of differencials in wages between those of childern and adults (in occupations where child labour is not prohibited but only regulated), and enhancing the involvement of non-governmental organisations are the other strategic actions being taken.

Collaboration of Coal India Ltd. with Foreign Firms

51. SHRI GAYA SINGH :

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Coal India Ltd. is likely to review its collaboration-cum-consultancy contract in regard to Eastern Coalfields Rajmahal Coal Mining Project with Mat Chem, the Canada-based multinational linked to the grant US Steel ;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the existing contract with Met Chem has proved to be disadvantageous to the Coal India Ltd ; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons for renewing the contract ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Workshop on New Labour Policy

52. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA :

SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Work-shop on "New Labour Policy for employment generation" was held in Bombay on 26th September, 1993 ;

(b) if so, what are the main observations and suggestions made at the workshop ; and Government's reaction thereto ;

(c) whether the new labour policy has since been formulated ; and

(d) if so, what are the salient features thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) to (d) According to available information a Workshop on "New Labour Policy and Employment Generation" was organised by All-India Manufacturers' Organisation (AIMO) in Bombay on 25-9-93. The recommendations of the workshop have not yet been sent to the Government. However, in the workshop a memorandum was submitted to the Minister of State for Labour by AIMO. The memorandum inter alia suggested :

(1) Simplification of Labour laws for its effective implementation.

(2) Formulation of a National Wage Policy in order to encourage efficiency and productivity.

(3) Formulation of an employment oriented Labour Policy.

(4) Establishment of special economic zones and formulation of composite labour laws for such economic zones.

(5) National Renewal Fund assistance to the private sector units.

The Government has taken note of the suggestions made in the memorandum. Streamlining of Labour laws, wage regime, promotion of employment and separation/terminal benefits for workers is a continuous process. Now a new Industrial Relations Law is being formulated with the objective of increasing productivity, generating higher rates of employment growth and establishment of harmonious industrial relations which will take care of industries irrespective of the zones of their location.

Computation of the Families under Poverty Line

*53. SHRI S. AUSTIN : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) what is the last date of computation of the numbers of families under the poverty line ;

(b) whether Government have directed the State Governments to update the above information ; and

(c) if so, by when the work is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) The latest available estimate of the number of persons living below poverty line is for the year 1987-88.

(b) and (c) The Planning Commission estimates the number and proportion of persons living below the poverty line. Statewise, on the basis of quinquennial surveys on household consumption expenditure carried out by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO). The year of the next quinquennial survey is 1993-94.

Loss Suffered by STC on Import of Edible Oil

*54. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH :
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report published in the Business Pioneer of November 16, 1993 under the caption 'STC lost Rs. 9 crore on edible oil Import deal ;

(b) if so, what are the facts in this regard ;

(c) whether it is a fact that the State Trading Corporation (STC) placed an order for the purchase of 30,000 tonnes of Palmolein with certain Malaysian firm without contacting established refineries in Malaysia, if so, what are the deails and the reasons therefor ;

(d) whether it is a fact that STC lost Rs. 9 crore in this deal and if so, what are the details in this regard ; and

(e) if so, whether Government have made any enquiry into the allegations relating to the said import deal of palmolein by STC, if so, what are the details of investigations made in this regard ?